

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JANUARY 1986

Libya

Meeting 8 January with West European ambassadors in Tripoli, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi announced, according to Radio Monte Carlo, that he will in the future "encourage Palestinians to confine their battle to the occupied areas." He also told the envoys that his country is ready to settle all differences through "discussion and dialogue" and "away from violence." Meanwhile, Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, in remarks cited by Rabat radio, told reporters at the ICO meeting in Fes that the U.S. measures "will not damage Libya whatsoever" and affirmed that the Jamahiriya will persist in its "anti-imperialist, anticolonialist, and anti-Zionist line."

In regional reaction to the situation, the Arab League Secretariat called for a meeting of the League's Council at foreign minister level with Arab finance ministers participating to consider an Arab response to the "U.S. economic threats to Libya," Riyadh radio announced. Among those voicing support for Libya, the Sudanese Transitional Military Council affirmed its "full support" against any aggression, SUNA reported, announcing later that a Sudanese "Commission for Popular Resistance" has been formed "to provide material and moral support" for the Libyan people. PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad called for an Arab boycott of the United States and its interests.

Palestinian Affairs

A "political spokesman" of the Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, group told Austria's news weekly *PROFIL* that the group "cannot claim credit" for the Rome and Vienna airport attacks, noting that the "Arab fedayeen cells" proved "their value" in those two cities. In an interview cited by KUNA, the spokesman claimed the group does not "spread terror" but is "engaged in liberation

struggle," adding that the group plans to free its people imprisoned in Europe. Meanwhile, Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* revealed that the head of PLO security signed a "security agreement" with the Greek Government as part of its "continuous contacts" with European governments to prevent military operations that internationally "harm and embarrass" the organization.

In another development, Yasir 'Arafat disclosed in press statements cited by Radio Monte Carlo that he has postponed his visit to Jordan "to a future date." The radio noted that this is the third postponement of the visit in less than a month.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided Khark Island and flew 101 combat missions against ground targets, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi aircraft also attacked a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

The Iraqi delegation at the ICO meeting in Fes proposed a draft resolution calling for an immediate end to the war and a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz announced in remarks carried by Rabat radio.

Egypt

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi will visit Egypt 14 January, Cairo radio reported, citing an informed source in Rome. In domestic developments, Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said that Sulayman Khatir, the police officer convicted for the murder of seven Israelis in the Sinai, committed suicide in his cell in a military clinic 7 January, according to MENA.

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Delhi Confirms Upcoming Gorbachev Visit This Year

BK090307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, is to visit India later this year. Giving this information to newsmen in Moscow, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, said a specific date has not yet been fixed. Mr Gorbachev is visiting India at the invitation extended by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit to Moscow in May last year.

Punjab Police Arrest 150 Sikhs To Prevent Strike

HK081518 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 8 (AFP) — Punjab police today arrested 150 Sikh militants, banned arms and closed educational institutions in a bid to stall a "block the roads" campaign set for Friday, reports said. Most of the arrests were made in swoops on members of the pro-secessionist All India Sikh Students Federation, which had called the campaign and announced the formation of 300 "commando squads" of 20 activists each to see it through.

The Punjab State cabinet had met today to review the situation and decided to crack down on "disruptive and disgruntled elements," PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted officials as saying.

Orders were issued banning the carrying of arms by all civilians for two days from tomorrow, including those with special permission, PTI said. Educational institutions were shut in the sensitive districts of Gurdaspur, Patiala, Jalandhar, Bantinda and Sangrur for the next three days.

Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala appealed for cooperation from the state's citizens, asking them not to panic and to travel about as usual on Friday, PTI said.

The federation is campaigning mainly for the release of its members jailed during four years of secessionist violence in Punjab.

Friday's road blockage would be the first major confrontation between the moderate Akali Dal Sikh administration and the federation, which does not recognise the government.

The federation has boycotted an accord between the Akali Dal party and the federal government in July which effectively ended the secessionist campaign in the Sikh dominated northern state. They are believed responsible for the murder in August of Akali Dal chief Harchand Singh Longowal, who signed the accord which paved the way for state elections in September.

Militants have killed at least 40 people since then, apparently taking advantage of a lenient attitude taken by the Chief Minister Barnala's government which released many of them from jail, reports have said.

The federal government has conveyed its displeasure to Mr Barnala, and Mr Barnala yesterday spoke to Punjab Police Chief B.S. Dhaliwal about "inaction," PTI reported.

Punjab Chief on Strike

BK081654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
8 Jan 86

[Text] The Punjab cabinet reviewed the latest law and order situation in the state at a meeting in Chandigarh today. Later, briefing newsmen, the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said all efforts will be made to ensure smooth flow of traffic next Friday when a call for rasta roko [block roads] has been given by the All India Sikh Students Federation. The chief minister said the law enforcing agencies have been instructed to deal firmly with those indulging in violence and disruptive activities. The chief minister said that the call has been given by disruptive forces opposed to the return of peace and normalcy in the state.

Mr Barnala did not rule out the involvement of some foreign hands in the violent incidents in the state. He urged the center to take effective steps to check infiltration from across the border. Mr Barnala said disruptive elements had even in the past been stepping up their activities whenever a solution to the Punjab tangle was brought forward. He alleged that these elements are now trying to delay the implementation of the Punjab accord. Meanwhile, according to an official spokesman over 100 preventive arrests have been made in the state.

More Sikhs Arrested

BK090847 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Text] In Punjab, an unruly group of students set ablaze a bus in a village near Amritsar this morning after making the passengers alight. According to an official spokesman, the police reached the spot and controlled the situation.

Meanwhile, the police has made about 260 preventative arrests in the state in connection with tomorrow's call for roads blockade given by the All India Sikh Students Federation.

Commentary on Expansion of U.S.-India Economic Ties

BK081541 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1340 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Commentary by political commentator S.C. Bhatt: "Indo-American Economic Cooperation"]

[Text] The United States has always been among the top trading partners of India. But the zig-zag course of their relations over the years has had its impact on the development of trade as well as other aspects of economic cooperation. The world's two largest democracies have much to offer each other, but somehow this was for a long time not translated in economic terms. Now, perhaps for the first time, a studied effort is being made from both the American and Indian ends to strengthen the economic relations. The aim is more trade, better collaboration and a much higher level of economic exchanges in general, in the immediate as well as long term period.

The prime minister's visit to the United States in June last year and his discussions with the American President set the tone for

this new and productive phase in the economic relations between the two nations. Mr Rajiv Gandhi made a distinctively favorable impact on the American mind and the awareness of India as a vibrant democracy and a modern industrialized nation striving to enter the 21st century. Investors and businessmen deliberately placed India within their calculations of overseas economic cooperation. [Words indistinct] of news for coming closer and exploring avenues of collaboration. Delegations of businessmen, technologists and even high level political leaders have visited each other's country.

The American commerce secretary, Mr Malcolm Baldrige, had visited India on an exploratory mission even before the prime minister went to the United States. More visits and study tours have been planned. India has thought of organizing major trade shows in the United States and the Americans have plans to put up a number of expositions in Indian cities to create greater awareness of their high technology.

It is in the sphere of high technology that India is making a big thrust and there has also been the major theme of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's exaltations to its people. A notable advance in this regard was the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two governments last year. It provides the framework for the transfer of high technology from the United States to India. Another agreement called "program for advancement of commercial technology" provides for collaboration between private industries in the two countries in the sphere of research and development.

During Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the United States it was agreed between the two countries that there was considerable potential for expansion of bilateral trade. The total volume of Indo-U.S. trade is of the order of \$4 billion — 18 percent of India's exports go to the United States and 13 percent of her imports come from there. But viewed in the context of the huge American world trade, the \$4 billion of trade exchanges between India and the United States is less than 1 percent of the American overall trade. This alone would give us an idea of the vast scope for stepping up the trade exchange.

Presently, exports of textiles, diamonds, and crude oil account for a large part of India's exports to the USA, although sophisticated machinery and goods, called engineering goods of India, are also making a significant contribution. Crude oil exports are only a partial phenomenon since this oil will gradually be refined in India. India is a net importer of oil. So, she will not have any refined petroleum or products for export. This calls for urgent efforts to find new products which can be exported to the American market to make good for the eventual loss of crude oil exports and for increasing the volume of trade.

A known obstacle to this effort has been the protectionism practiced by most of the developed countries, including the United States. There has to be a freer flow of commodities and the industrialist nations have to throw open their markets to the Third World. India has been known for her industrial advance and now there is a fresh momentum for sophistication and high technology. The scope for Indo-U.S. cooperation is, thus, growing.

HINDUSTAN TIMES on Siachen Glacier Conflict

BK071623 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
27 Dec 85 p 9

[Taranjit Singh Sandhu article: "Conflict in Siachen"]

[Text] While Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan have on every occasion expressed publicly their respective country's commitment to live in peace, friendship and solidarity with each other, their troops, as reports indicate, are involved in some serious fighting over a piece of icy wasteland. Exchange of fire and minor skirmishes between India and Pakistan along the erstwhile ceasefire line (designated as the line of control by Simla Agreement of 1972) may have been almost routine ever since the 1949 truce, but this clash has, however, given a new dimension to Indo-Pakistan hostility along the Jammu and Kashmir border and may even, as warned by the prime minister, jeopardise the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries. It is in this context that the defence secretaries of the two governments are meeting in February 1986 to try and work out a solution.

This new undeclared war is being fought in the Siachen Glacier, located in the Karakoram Range at a height of 18,000 ft. One of the most inhospitable regions in the world, it is a veritable nightmare even to experienced mountaineers who have to traverse the glacier to climb the mountains — Saltoro Kangri, Sia Kangri or Teram Kangri and the Apsaras. The glacier is filled with bottomless crevasses and gullies interspersed with huge ice pinnacles and seracs. Far worse is the wind that keeps the temperature at -40 degree centigrade. The area is therefore certainly incapable of becoming a worthwhile battleground. Yet, on both sides of this glacier, Indian and Pakistani pickets have been set up to prevent each other from gaining even an inch, regardless of the cost involved.

The genesis of this undeclared war goes back to the Karachi, Indo-Pakistan agreement of 1949 and the Simla Pact of 1972. The Karachi agreement drew the ceasefire line formally up to the grid point (beyond Kargil) near a place called Thang. There was no physical demarcation of line further north presumably because of the inaccessibility of the region and also the fact that no troops had been deployed there by either side during or after the hostilities. The Simla Agreement while converting the ceasefire line into the line of actual control, inexplicably failed to rectify this lacuna. This later became the basic reason for the dispute and considerable cartographic confusion that prevails till today.

Pakistan has been wanting to (for some time now) incorporate the Siachen area in Azad Kashmir — the Pakistani occupied Kashmir. Taking advantage of the silence of the 1972 Indo-Pakistan agreement regarding the political status of the glacier, Pakistan tried to secure international recognition of its claim. The tactic used was to encourage foreign mountaineers to climb nearby peaks through the territory under its control and make "recess" into the unpatrolled Indian territory. In pursuance of this strategy, Pakistan's tourism department made the application procedure extremely simple and waived off even royalty for peaks below 20,000 feet.

This tactic paid rich dividends to Pakistan. Many maps issued by some U.S. and United Nations agencies showed the glacier to be part of Pakistan. For example, *THE AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL*, a premier mountaineering publication, in its 1981 and 1982 numbers reported expeditions into the area under the section of climbs and expeditions in Pakistan. The 1982 account of the same journal in fact, reported that a 1980 Indian expedition crossed the ceasefire line and entered what is generally considered to be Pakistan.

It soon became clear to India that Pakistan's plan was to occupy the Siachen area. The Indian Government decided to launch a counter expedition to the area in order to strengthen its claim and position only when Pakistan started deploying its special snow warfare force. The first expedition was led by Col. N. Thandani climbed the Apsaras I. Another expedition was launched next year by the Indian Army and two important peaks, Sai Kangri (24,850 ft) and Saltoro Kangri (25,400 ft) were scaled.

The Indian expeditions made Pakistan take a serious note of the Indian presence and it increased its presence by setting up military posts in the region during late 1983. India on the other hand, realising that mere this would hardly be a deterrent, airlifted a battalion of the Kumaon Regiment to the glacier area. As a result of these moves by both Pakistan and India, the area became tense.

Soon after came the first major incident — a Pakistani thrust into Indian territory. On 23 June 1984 three Indian jawans [soldiers] at a forward observation post spotted a number of "snow-suited mountaineers." They were Pakistani soldiers of the special snow warfare force, the Northern Light Infantry and the Special Services Group. The raiders fired on Indian jawans, killing one and injuring another. The third soldier, however, managed to reach the local outpost and alert the Indian Armed Forces unit stationed in the area. The battle began in earnest soon after, with the Pakistanis making a number of determined attacks. They were, however, beaten back with heavy casualties.

After their failure to achieve a breakthrough, Pakistani troops made another attack in May this year. They attempted to take the Indian forces from the rear by infiltrating into Indian territory through the Singhi glacier via the Shakasgam valley (Indian territory held by China). They were, however, repulsed with heavy losses. The efforts of the Pakistani troops to wrest the initiatives ever since the hostilities began have not been successful despite their superior equipment including special tents and Swedish Bandwagon Snow-mobiles.

An important question that needs investigation here concerns Pakistan's aims in this area. It is clear by now that to achieve its geo-strategic aims, Pakistan is now trying to occupy the area near Karakoram Pass which will enable it to dominate the Nubra Valley and the routes going down to Leh. Pakistan wants to

capture Indira Col which is a wedge between its illegally occupied parts of Kashmir and the 4,500 kms of territory it has ceded to China.

According to defence experts, Pakistan's intention is to take advantageous positions in the Siachen area and thereby occupy the common border with China to facilitate a closer military link-up. In fact, there is evidence of Pakistan and China jointly undertaking some reconnaissance missions over the Siachen Glacier and Nubra Valley. This has been confirmed by the prestigious *JANES DEFENCE WEEKLY* which in one of its July issues said that on May 29, four Pakistani and two Chinese jet fighters intruded into the Indian air space and flew over the glacier and valley on a military photo reconnaissance mission. Thus, Pakistani occupation of the region would in effect provide a "cushion" to the Chinese positions already in place.

Further, the de facto occupation of Siachen by Pakistan would weaken Indian claims in any future Indian negotiations on the border issue with China as the Sino-Pakistan agreement under which the Shakasgam valley was ceded to China has a clause indicating that it is valid only till a final solution is reached in the demarcation of the area. Therefore, Pakistani control would give a tremendous politico-legal advantage to China.

Finally, the sudden flare up is also a tactical reminder to India of Pakistan's intention to keep tensions alive in the Kashmir region and an exhibition of its overconfidence gained after acquisition of sophisticated arms and weapons systems from the United States. Besides, it is also an attempt by Gen. Zia and his government to prove to its people that it has not given up its claim on the strategic area of Kashmir as has been alleged by the regime's opponents. In fact, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan went out of his way to launch a strong propaganda offensive in his speech at the Pakistan's National Assembly claiming that "The glacier formed a part of the northern areas of Pakistan."

The obvious conclusion that can be drawn from the Pakistani actions and statements is that it intends to contest India's jurisdiction in the Siachen region even if it involves the use of force. This is not to suggest that war clouds have assembled and all-out war is imminent.

Yet, the conflict cannot be taken lightly. What has to be remembered by our policy makers is that if the Pakistani armed forces gain control over the area, it would give them strategic foothold in the Nubra valley and brighten their chances of cutting off Ladakh and entire Karakoram region besides creating diplomatic, legal and political hurdles for the Indian government.

The defence of this icy wasteland has, thus, become vital for the defence and integrity of the Indian border with Pakistan.

Afghan Protest of Airspace Violation Rejected

BK081552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
8 Jan 86

[Text] Pakistan has rejected yesterday's protest by Kabul authorities alleging that Pakistani helicopters and planes violated Afghan airspace in Konarha and Torkham on 30, 31 December and 2 January.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and told that Pakistan rejects the protest by Kabul authorities. He was asked to tell Kabul to desist from making such fictitious allegations in the future.

Further Reportage on Visit of Indian Finance Minister

Trade Talks Begin

BK081852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
8 Jan 86

[Text] Talks between India and Pakistan on trade and economic cooperation began in Islamabad today and the two delegations discussed joint ventures and infrastructures. The delegations also discussed substantial expansion of trade in the public sector and its resumption in the private sector. The Indian delegation is led by the finance minister, Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh, and the Pakistan delegation by his counterpart, Dr Mahbubul Haq. The two ministers first met separately and later with the delegations. The Indian side said they are not seeking any favored treatment in trade but what Pakistan makes available to other countries and after it has taken into consideration its national interest and concern.

Dr Haq told our correspondent later that some forward-looking proposals had been made during today's talks and he expected the two sides to discuss specifics tomorrow.

The Pakistan delegation to the talks said their country is sincerely interested in the expansion of economic relations. The Pakistan minister said his country looks upon the economic passage as part of the total passage of normalization of relations.

Earlier, on his arrival at Islamabad airport, the finance minister told newsmen that his 3-day visit is aimed at giving a special impetus to the economic ties as part of an overall normalization of bilateral relations.

Replying to a question, Mr Singh said the discussions will cover ventures and improvement of telecommunications apart from trade. He referred to his talks in New Delhi with the Pakistan finance minister and praised the initiative taken by him for strengthening economic cooperation.

Mr Mahbubul Haq said there are areas in which India and Pakistan can have major economic collaborations. It will be their efforts to discover these areas.

AIR's (All India Radio) Special correspondent, C.V. Rahman, reports from Islamabad: [Begin recording] Indo-Pakistan trade is still a small fraction of the total foreign trade of the two

countries and also the trade balance is in Pakistan's favor. The volume of trade has also come down. It was the Simla Agreement of 1972 which provided for resumption of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. A trade agreement was signed in 1975, but it expired 3 years later. There is no trade agreement between India and Pakistan at present. Another difficulty is that since July 1978, the Pakistan Government has debarred its private sector from importing goods from India. These and other problems are being discussed by the two finance ministers. The talks are expected to lay down broad parameters for details to follow. [end recording]

Finance Minister Comments

BK081854 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
8 Jan 86

[Text] A 2-day ministerial-level meeting on economic cooperation between India and Pakistan began in Islamabad today. Dr Mahbubul Haq said we are discussing with [words indistinct] for bringing significant change in bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that the present talks for economic agreements will usher in a new era of cooperation between the two countries. He identified several sectors in which there are possibilities of cooperation. These include expansion of trade in the public sector, resuming trade in the private sector, strengthening basic contacts, reviewing possibilities of joint industrial ventures and matters pertaining to exchanges of delegations. Referring to the recent meeting between President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mr V.P. Singh said this meeting will help open a new chapter in relations between the two countries. He said this can be extremely beneficial for economic cooperation and we can move forward step by step. He agreed with Dr Mahbubul Haq's proposals on possible areas of cooperation. He said we can smooth the way of cooperation in various private sectors.

Radio Pakistan's representative says that in their meeting tomorrow morning officials of the two countries' delegations will consider steps for bilateral cooperation and identify areas of bilateral trade. The proposals of these officers will be considered in the second round of the ministerial level talks tomorrow afternoon.

Indian Minister on Trade

BK090334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Text] The finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has expressed the hope that concrete results in the sphere of trade and infrastructure will follow from the talks between him and his Pakistani counterpart, Dr Mahbubul Haq. He was speaking in Islamabad at a dinner given in his honor last night by Mr Haq. Mr Singh emphasized the importance of good relations with one's neighbors and said it is far more important than the relations with other countries.

Welcoming the finance minister, Mr Haq spoke of a wind of change in both countries and said Pakistan is keen to raise a harvest of hope in every sphere of Indo-Pakistan relations. He

said concrete suggestions are being put forward during the talks and hoped that these will conclude on a note of success.

Prime Minister on Political Meetings, Muslim League

BK090404 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT

9 Jan 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has stressed upon the people the need to move forward under the democratic system now that fundamental rights have been restored. Talking to newsmen at Peshawar airport prior to his departure for Rawalpindi yesterday evening, he referred to the major steps taken the present government during the last 8 months, pointing out that martial law has now been lifted and a civilian government is functioning in the country. Asked whether there will be any restrictions on general meetings or demonstrations, the prime minister said that basic rights would not have been restored if such restriction were to remain in force.

He said that he met almost all members of the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] assembly during his stay in Peshawar, and some 66 of them have joined the Muslim League parliamentary party and unanimously elected Arbad Mohammad Jahangir Khan as their leader. He will also be the chief of the NWFP Muslim League. On the Muslim League manifesto, the prime minister said that we will present our program with the formal announcement of arrangements at the federal level. In reply to a question, the prime minister reiterated that the federal cabinet will be formed this month. The prime minister returned to Rawalpindi last night.

Landmine Kills 15, Injures 10 Afghan Refugees

HK090133 Hong Kong AFP in English 0041 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 8 (AFP)— Fifteen Afghan refugees were killed and 10 others injured yesterday when their jeep blew up on a landmine in the Parachinar area of the Northwest Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, reports reaching here said today. The Afghans were reportedly coming from the nearby town of Sadda but before they could reach their camp, a mine planted outside the camp exploded under their vehicle.

In another incident, four persons were injured when a bomb went off near a cinema house in Peshawar yesterday, 24 hours after police defused another bomb before it could explode, police sources said.

Meanwhile, tribal tension is reportedly continuing in the Northwest Frontier Province where an Afridi tribal leader Wali Khan Kukkikhel reportedly revolted against the Pakistani Government's drive against arms and drugs smuggling from across the border and heroin manufacturing in the tribal territory.

Unconfirmed reports said last night that armed Kukkikhel dissidents allegedly backed by the Kabul regime recently arrested about 400 Afghan mujahidins and refugees soon after they entered the tribal area.

They were said to be holding them hostage in the hope of exchanging them for 100 Afridis who were reportedly captured by the mujahidins and handed over to Pakistani authorities last week.

BANGLADESH

Foreign Minister, UK Delegation Discuss Ties

*BK081638 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
8 Jan 86*

[Text] Talks on ways to further improve the political and economic relations between Bangladesh and Britain were held in Dhaka today. The talks were held between the foreign secretary, Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, and the visiting British foreign and commonwealth office junior minister, Mr Timothy Eggar. They discussed easing the waiting time for the family of Bangladesh immigrants in Britain. The possibility of opening a British consular office at Sylhet was also discussed.

British Minister Meets Home Minister

*BK090142 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT
9 Jan 86*

[Text] The visiting British Foreign and Commonwealth Office junior minister, Mr Timothy Eggar, met the home minister, Major General Abdul Mannan Siddiqi, in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed expeditious clearing of the pending petitions of the dependents to join their families in Britain.

The possibility of increasing the number of scholarship (7at) the highest level in medicine and technical subjects also came up for discussion.

Dhaka University Official Resigns Over Violence

HK081612 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 8 (AFP) — Dhaka University's vice chancellor resigned today in protest over recurring campus violence, an aide at his office said. He said Vice Chancellor Mohammad Shamsul Huq had sent a letter of resignation to the chancellor, Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, but could not confirm whether the resignation had been accepted.

Vice Chancellor Huq was not available for comment.

The resignation came shortly after rival groups of students brandishing firearms and automatic weapons today shot blank fire and blasted crackers on the campus for nearly two hours, creating panic among the students.

A joint meeting of the deans of faculty, teachers representatives, proctors and provosts of residential hostels at the university today expressed concern at the deteriorating situation on the campus and threatened to resign en masse if the situation did not improve.

On December 30 a group of students set fire to the vice chancellor's residence after police had raided a student residential hall to "flush out armed hooligans."

Dhaka University, with nearly 15,000 students, is alleged to be a sanctuary for student and non-student militant political activists.

SRI LANKA

Security Forces Arrest Terrorists in Kilinochchi

*BK091127 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 9 Jan 86*

[Text] Security forces captured hard-core terrorists in Kilinochchi yesterday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that two members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, one member of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam and one member of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization were arrested and a shotgun, terrorist literature and canopy of a tent were found by the troops.

Twenty-seven terrorist suspects were arrested in Shilawatte in Mullaitivu during a search operation by security forces on Sunday [5 January], they were later released after questioning.

A videotape containing a terrorist training film was also recovered from the house of Shanmuganathan, a resident of Mullaitivu.

In another incident, one soldier suffered minor injury when terrorists attacked security forces in Jaffna. The terrorists fired two mortars into the Jaffna fort when the security forces counter-attacked with bombs.

The government agent in Jaffna was requested by the commander of the security forces in Jaffna to dissuade the terrorists from such actions as a further escalation would result in civil casualties.

Meanwhile, a terrorist suspect Shanmugam Thangaraja was shot dead in Trincomalee last Tuesday [7 January]. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the suspect was shot dead by a sentry when he tried to escape from Fort (Federic) where he was being held in custody.

Tamil Separatists Says Tea Poisoning Will Continue

HK091032 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Madras, India, Jan 9 (AFP) — A Tamil Separatist group today said it would continue poisoning Sri Lankan tea shipments and warned of disaster if the claim was ignored.

"As our intention is only to wreck the Sri Lankan economy, thereby crippling the government's war machine, and not to hurt the innocent citizens of the countries which import Sri Lankan tea, we beg you not to dismiss this as a hoax," the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA) said in a letter addressed to foreign missions. It advised them to "heed to this warning and take necessary steps to avert impending disaster."

"We will continue to poison Sri Lankan tea till armed forces are withdrawn from the homeland and motherland of the Republic of Eelam," the letter said, referring to government forces in the Tamil-dominated areas.

Copies of the letter were also sent to South Indian-based Sri Lankan Tamil leaders of groups fighting for a separate state in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The letter was signed by the group's head, Panagoda Maheswaran, identified as a former engineering student at St. Mary's College of London University.

Mr Maheswaran said that "sabotage commandos" from his group were mixing deadly potassium cyanide in Sri Lankan tea meant for export.

"We would very much like to furnish you with details of the poisoned tea charts but safety of our sabotage commandos and their continued sabotage work are of paramount importance to us," the letter said.

Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner here characterized the claim as an instance of Tamil militants spreading "misinforma-

tion." Tissa Jayakody also said random checks of tea in Sri Lanka had detected no poison.

Colombo has set up a special secretariat to monitor tea samples. Mr Maheswaran pointed out that the "poisoning" of the tea had already affected Sri Lankan tea exports.

U.S. authorities have said they were intercepting the tea for analysis, and Britain has halted shipments. Similar steps have been taken in Malaysia and Australia. Tea is Sri Lanka's main export earner and brings in about 45 percent of its foreign exchange. Last year's earnings have been tentatively estimated at 440 million dollars, Sri Lankan central bank sources have said.

Mr Maheswaran, who heads the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), allegedly was involved in a bomb explosion in 1984 at the Meenabakkam Airport here which killed some 30 people.

Majlis Speaker Views U.S. Libya Boycott, Khatir Death

LD091319 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Report on address by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to an open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on 9 January on U.S. boycott of Libya and on the death of Egyptian officer Sulayman Khatir]

[Text][Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Certain developments are currently underway in Egypt that may be crucial for the destiny of the Islamic world, if we look at these matters perceptively. These developments recall the incidents [words indistinct] at Qom, when the religious students and the hezbollahi citizens of Qom were covered in blood and dust and when a dazzling light spread out from Qom — something which still continues. What has been taking place in Egypt over the past few days has been truly astounding and instructive. It appears that a most severe blow has been struck at Egypt's legal system. That country's judiciary has broken down because it condemned an Egyptian hero for the sake of the Zionists. [end recording]

The Egyptian system and the band ruling that country have been marked with the stain of historic shame which cannot be eradicated except by resigning from office. It could be said that nothing of importance has occurred, only that a young student soldier has been tried. This is not the issue. What is important is the spirit of the matter: A human being, motivated by the sense of pain and anguish that most Egyptians feel, has done a brave thing. This is a symbol of a movement, of correct thinking, and of a deeply felt popular resistance. [Begin recording] The Egyptian court, the band ruling Egypt, and the Egyptian prisons adopted an extremely stupid approach towards the matter. They did something that will be a stain of shame in Egyptian history. Egypt has suffered humiliation in the Islamic world and in history. This can only be remedied by the Egyptian people, something which they are doing. The Egyptian people should not forget this, because it is important. [end recording]

Continuing his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: It appears that Mr Reagan is about to commit another error. The noise which he has made with regard to the Palestinians and Libyans is indeed aimed at solving U.S. domestic problems and sorting out differences that have arisen between the parties inside the United States. The people will not understand such words. Those whose hands are soiled with the blood of Egyptian people cannot comprehend the conditions which exist in the world. They do not know the Egyptian people. They do not comprehend the sensibilities and sufferings of the Palestine people. Because of a move made by people who have reached the end of their rope, they inflame the world in this manner!

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly added: Mr Reagan has written a letter to the Fes conference demanding that the Islamic countries boycott Libya! How stupid can a man be, when his NATO allies are not prepared to boycott Libya, to imagine that the whole world must submit to the demands of the White House! These people do not understand world conditions. They create inflammatory situations and tensions merely because a few Palestinians who have been homeless for decades

lash out somewhere and carry out some deed. These people imagine that the entire world should be engulfed in flames. You should understand the pain of the Egyptian people, the pain felt by these people who have been fighting for 50 years! You have imposed a ruling gang on the people, and you kill in prison such individuals as the Sulayman Khatirs, who are models in the history of mankind, for fear that they might become heroes! Sulayman Khatir became a paladin; alive or martyred, he is still a hero. His blood is seething, even if his breath is still; and the traces left by his blood are certainly greater! These people are not prepared to learn a lesson from history.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly emphasized in conclusion: The Islamic nations should respect the trail blazed by Sulayman Khatir and should keep this epic alive in history. The foes of Islam and their people should heed the lesson of these events!

Foreign Ministry Claims Khatir Martyred

GF090446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Text] According to IRNA, the spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry in commenting on the martyrdom of Sulayman Khatir, announced: All evidence and facts indicate that Sulayman Khatir, the hero of the Sinai, did not commit suicide, but was martyred by the Egyptian Government. The Egyptian regime had decided to sentence him to execution after a rigged trial, with the coercive influence of the United States and Israel. However, the growing protests and resistance of the Egyptian Muslim nation, as well as widespread demonstrations by the people, were instrumental in changing his sentence to life imprisonment. Finally, after he was injured by a Zionist correspondent and yielding to the pressure of the Zionist regime, this heroic soldier was martyred at a military hospital.

The spokesman added: We are confident that Egyptian Muslims will continue their relentless struggle against a regime which has earned nothing but the contempt of the Muslim Egyptian nation by accepting the Camp David accords and will make the United States and Israel and other enemies of Islam understand that, while they may have the power to repress affiliated and anti-popular regimes, they will never be able to daunt the prestige and honor of the Muslim nations.

Paper on Death of Egyptian 'Hero'

GF081352 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 8 Jan 86

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* publishes a report on the martyrdom of Egyptian hero Sulayman Khatir. The report says: The murderous Egyptian regime has killed the Egyptian struggler and the hero of Sinai Sulayman Khatir in order to please the Zionist entity. Mubarak's regime reported the news of Sulayman Khatir's martyrdom as world dictatorial regimes always do and according to the old habit of the murderers of such regimes. It says it was an act of suicide by this hero.

However, Mubarak's agent regime did not leave this struggler in isolation for a single moment, even when he was chained and behind bars, and kept him under strict and continuous watch.

The drama of discovering Sulayman Khatir's body after he hanged himself at the window of his hospital room will not fool any intelligent person.

The defense attorney who defended Sulayman Khatir asserted that this struggling hero enjoyed very high morale and Islamic spirit. He said it is not possible to imagine that he would commit such an act. How can it be possible that he would commit suicide? Every Egyptian Muslim from today will take the place of Sulayman Khatir so that the dictator will understand that his fall is inevitable and will not be safe from such crimes.

Navy Intercepts FRG Ship in Gulf of Oman

LD090812 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 9 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — A 12690-ton West German cargo ship *Ville du Sahara* was intercepted by the Iranian naval forces in the Oman Sea Thursday morning, a senior Navy official said. The Kuwait-bound ship, carrying 676 containers, was stopped by the Iranian Navy about 200 kms east of Strait of Hormuz for inspection, he said. The ship has been led to one of the Iranian ports for further inspection and if it is established that its cargo is bound for Iraq the Iranian Navy will deal with the issue as it has done in the past.

Two weeks ago the Iranian Navy confiscated about 60 tons of Iraq-bound explosives from a Danish ship *Hornland*. The ship was released after the explosives were unloaded.

Majlis Speaker on Need To Stress Islamic Experience

LD031935 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 3 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 3, IRNA — In a meeting here Thursday with a group of officials in charge of the headquarters for annual "Ten-Day Dawn" ceremonies (February 1-11) Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the organizers of the ceremonies must endeavour to demonstrate to foreign guests the practicality of Islam as the foundation of social, political and private life in any society in the contemporary world.

The ceremonies mark the ten-day period from the arrival in Tehran of Imam Khomeini on February one, 1979 and the triumph of the Islamic revolution on February 11th. The ten-day period is celebrated every year with festivities and government-sponsored programs throughout Iran.

Rafsanjani said ever since culmination of the Islamic revolution non-Muslims and even some Muslim analysts have contended that the Islamic system of government is impracticable and not capable of surviving the tides of the contemporary world, whereas, he said, the seven years since the culmination of the revolution in Iran has demonstrably proved the opposite of that notion.

The Majlis speaker said that contrary to the wishful hopes of Marxist analysis and of other foreign powers which flirted with wishful hopes of seeing an early downfall of the Islamic revolution in Iran the country has successfully survived not only the tides of the current world but equally as well the torrents of an unwanted war and uninterrupted hostility of foreign powers.

Rafsanjani said to the visiting group that rather than concentrate on matter-of-facts of the revolution, the organizers of the annual ceremonies should address themselves to the more important task of portraying Iran's successful experience of applying Islam as a groundwork for an ideal statehood for man in the contemporary world.

Musavi Addresses SAIRI Members on Islamic Motivation

LD072344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 86

[Text] On the eve of the first session of the sixth term of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), members of that assembly met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this morning.

During this meeting, in a speech referring to the role of the SAIRI in continuing and strengthening the Islamic movement of the Iraqi people, the prime minister said: The continuation of the activities of SAIRI highlights the failure of the great conspiracy of imperialism to obliterate the Islamic and human identity of the Iraqi people which was started by Saddam. He added: Tyrannical governments do not oppose those who bow down and submit to them. If today you are being expelled from your homes and your country, if you endure hardships and offer martyrs, it is because of your Islamic motivation, because you are not prepared to submit to the tyrannical Iraqi Government. The Islamic movement of the Iranian people started at a time when the people, in order to safeguard their Islamic values, were not prepared to submit to the satanical regime and becomes toys in the hands of imperialists. For this reason, they fought, they remained steadfast, they endured hardships, and eventually they were victorious.

The prime minister continued: The Islamic motivation of your movement should not be forgotten and the teachings of God should form the basis of all your movements, so that even if your struggle lasts for a long time you will have the ability to withstand difficulties.

Referring to the fact that the Islamic movement can never be stopped and that there are always some self-sacrificing people to support Islam, Mr Musavi said:

We should try to play a role in this Islamic movement so that we may be counted among the meritorious supporters of the world Islamic movement and may derive a share from this divine movement. You should realize that if the Islamic motivation of the movement is forgotten then disunity and schism will replace unity. At such a time, the differences of views of the leaders of the movement will be reflected among the people's ranks and that will threaten the Islamic goals of the movement. Therefore, for you who are organizing the Islamic movement of the Iraqi people

the best provision would be unity under the shadow of divine motivation.

Mr Musavi asked the members of SAIRI to mobilize all the Muslim and sincere Iraqi forces through better organization and greater effort and make use of the strength and power of all those who are in various countries of the world for the advancement of the Islamic goals of the assembly and the destruction of the tyrannical regime of Saddam.

The prime minister added: Compared with the early days of the formation of the assembly, your unity and solidarity have increased. However, the oppressed Iraqi people expect more of you and they demand that your activities have greater variety and diversity and are based on greater expertise. The SAIRI should inform the world of its legitimacy and the fact that it has been wronged; it should bring the voice of the oppressed Iraqi people to the Muslims of the world; it should enlighten them about the Islamic movement so that it can benefit from the support and the material and spiritual strength of the Muslims of the world in the same way that the people of the world were informed of the call of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and supported it according to their capabilities.

Mr Musavi then said: The friendly feelings of all enlightened Muslims of the world are behind you. In giving thanks for this valuable bounty you should make greater efforts and should make use of this divine power. The prime minister emphasized: Your Islamic movement should be free from the weaknesses which we had at the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution, because the model of the Islamic revolution is Iran, and the support of our revolutionary people are at the disposal of your Islamic movement today. You should try to provide for the future needs of your country through the training of expert and capable individuals.

Mr Musavi added: We shall continue the war till final victory because we regard victory in the war as victory over the enemies of Islam and not merely victory over Saddam.

At the end of his speech, the prime minister said: Today your movement has assumed international dimensions. You should further consolidate this aspect of your movement so that the enlightened people of the world may realize that with the downfall of Saddam, there is a capable power which can guarantee the independence and freedom of the Iraqi people and the administration of the affairs of the country. You should be certain that if the Muslim nations of the world become familiar with you many of the conspiracies which are now hatched against the Islamic revolution of Iran will be neutralized and your movement will enjoy greater growth.

Lebanese Clergymen Meet With Montazeri in Qom

GF090612 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following recent Israeli plots in southern Lebanon and leftist group movements in Tripoli and following anti-Islamic protests in Tripoli against Muslims, a group of resident Lebanese seminarians and scholars

at the Qom theological seminary met with His Eminence Aya-tollah Montazeri yesterday to inform him of their apprehension and loathing for such anti-Islamic acts in Lebanon, especially in the south and the resistant city of Tripoli. His Eminence Aya-tollah Montazeri then spoke about his appreciation for their viewpoint and expressed his regret for such treatment of the Islamic movement in Lebanon.

He said: I am confident that the recent conspiracies of Israel and corrupt and leftist groups in Tripoli and southern Lebanon against Islam and the Muslims will not succeed in debilitating or slackening the Muslim or Islamic movement in Lebanon. Such problems and setbacks have always been part of Muslim history and, on the contrary, are a test of the strength of the determination and a source of moral growth for Muslims.

He stated that the Lebanese Muslims would continue to resist Israeli plots and the provocations of leftist and affiliated groups in Tripoli with unity and faith in God Almighty and would neutralize and foil anti-Islamic movements with their selflessness.

Indian Foreign Minister To Visit Iran

GF090518 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
9 Jan 86

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry announced that in response to the invitation by Foreign Minister Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Indian Foreign Minister Mr Bali Ram Bhagat and other high-level officials would arrive on 10 January for an official 3-day visit to Iran to participate in the second session of the joint commission of the ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and India and to reciprocate Mr Velayati's visit to India last year.

The Indian Foreign minister will discuss bilateral relations, international, and regional issues of mutual interest with the Islamic Republic of Iran officials during his stay in Tehran. It may be recalled that the accord on the joint commission of the ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and India was signed in Tehran in 1983 between the foreign ministers of the two countries. This commission has been supervising the economic, technical, commercial, industrial, cultural, scientific, educational, and consular ties of the two countries since its inception, ties that have made laudable progress.

Embassy in Ankara Denies Ties With Islamic Jihad

NC071115 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 1 Jan 86 p 4

[Text] Ankara (TERCUMAN) — Answering questions put to them by TERCUMAN in connection with the recent threats directed against Turkey by the Islamic Jihad organization, Iranian Embassy officials in Ankara said: "There is no link between Iran and the Islamic Jihad organization. Consequently, the threats of a terrorist organization do not concern us."

The Iranian Embassy's press attache said: "Why don't you ask the U.S. Embassy or the Iraqi Embassy about this?" and added:

"The imperialists consider Iran as a serious obstacle to the realization of their aims. Iran will continue to oppose terrorism."

Ba'th Party Calls for Saddam Husayn's Overthrow

LD080007 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 7 Jan 86

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 7, IRNA — Regional command of Syrian Ba'th Party (Iraqi branch) Tuesday, urged the Iraqi Army to support its oppressed compatriots and overthrow the regime ruling Iraq.

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of Iraqi Armed Forces, the Syrian Ba'th Party released a statement Tuesday calling on the Iraqi Army to eliminate Saddam Husayn's dictatorial rule and fulfill its duty to the Iraqi and Arab people by rescuing Iraq from its present entanglement.

Iraq Forms Terrorist Squads Against GCC Countries

GF070903 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jan 86

[Text] The Arabic language weekly *AL-JIHAD* has carried a report citing reliable sources in Baghdad as saying that the Iraqi regime has decided to establish terrorist networks designed to shake up security in the GCC Persian Gulf countries and to assassinate some political officials, including security officials there.

Quoting Fadil al-Barrar, director of general security in Iraq, the paper states that perpetration of acts of sabotage and assassinations of the GCC members' shaykhs, blaming Iraqi groups opposed to the current Iraqi regime and supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran, will make the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf reconsider their efforts to ameliorate relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The report adds that during a meeting with the terrorist groups, the director of general security in Iraq proposed that they start the operations in the UAE, which he described as the GCC country that supports the Islamic Republic of Iran and has the most extensive commercial and political relations with Iran.

AL-JIHAD goes on to say that the order to form these terrorist networks was directed to Fadil al-Barraq, the director of security in Iraq, in a special order from the National Security Committee chaired by Saddam. *AL-JIHAD* further states that the members of this network will leave for the GCC countries from Morocco and Paris using forged passports under the guise of merchants, engineers, and construction laborers.

Commentary Scores Iraqi Air Raids on Civilians

GF071220 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 6 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners. Following the martyrdom of a number of Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen in Iraq by the regime that rules in

Baghdad, the world's media organs have reported yet another crime committed by the Baghdad regime — a crime which the champions of human rights do not seem to be aware of. Newspapers printed in Athens, Greece, reported on 3 January that 2,000 Iraqi Muslims were executed by hanging upon instructions of the Baghdad regime. The reports said that Al-Samawah, which is 30 km south of Baghdad [as heard], was the region where the Muslims were hung. Saddam ordered their execution because they were reluctant to go to the battlefronts.

One should not be astonished by the repetition of the silent stance adopted by the East and the West — the so-called human rights' champions — in face of the crimes committed by the Baghdad regime.

Although this silence has had a bearing on the realization of the inhuman aspirations of this regime in the imposed war, in essence it has also helped to expose the true identity of the patrons of the Baghdad regime and of those who purport to champion human rights and support peace. They will never be able to reply to a question in any court as to which side is threatened by military aggression. There can be no exception to defending oneself against an aggressor. Nor can there be an exception to pursuing the logical course of trying an aggressor.

The support given to Saddam by his patrons last year had no chance of not being criticized. A report attributed to one of Iraq's military officials said that the Baghdad regime's Air Force units carried out 24,000 military assignments in 1985. Although Saddam's patrons regard this report as a source of glorification for themselves, it should not be forgotten that the air raids on civilian regions in the Islamic Republic of Iran in March, April, and May last year killed 809 people and wounded another 2,326.

Obviously, those who place modern arms at the disposal of the Baghdad regime are aware of the fact that the Muslim masses and the world's peoples disregard the hand stretched out in the name of humanity and peace. It is quite clear that with the other hand they supply their deadly arms to the Baghdad regime. Using these deadly arms against civilian targets, the Baghdad regime has martyred 7,788 people in defenseless cities in the Islamic Republic of Iran to date and wounded another 22,400.

Henceforth, inhuman moves which violate all the norms of international law will be countered with the concept of reciprocity for forging compliance with humanitarian principles.

Kurdish Revolutionaries' Operations Detailed

GF081926 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries attacked a base belonging to the Iraqi regime in 'Aqrah in northern Iraq last week, killing eight members of this base.

The publication *TARIQ KARBALA'* said that in their attack, the revolutionaries used RPG's and heavy and light weapons and destroyed an assembly point and two vehicles belonging to the Saddamist regime's forces. They also set fire to a fuel depot.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,344

LD081721 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Tuesday killed or wounded at least 20 Iraqi soldiers, destroyed several of their bunkers and vehicles and set fire to two Iraqi munitions dumps in the region, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Wednesday.

In its Communique Number 2344, the Command says that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Tuesday inflicted substantial casualties on them and demolished several bunkers and mortar launchers together with three heavy engineering vehicles of Ba'thist forces.

The Command further says exchange of fire continued in the southern fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Talaiyeh and Majnun Islands with considerable casualties and damage being inflicted on Iraqi troops.

Iran's Muslim combatants opened fire on two Iraqi patrol units trying to infiltrate their positions in Sumar and Hoseyniyeh Tuesday forcing the Iraqi patrols to flee while sustaining casualties according to the Joint Staff communique.

Elsewhere, it says that Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi motorized columns in Panjwin operational area Tuesday and prevented their movement.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was shelled by Iraqi artillery from across the border on Tuesday as a result of which some houses were damaged.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

GF081520 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Text] The resistant cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr continue to be the targets of the long-range heavy artillery of the mercenaries of the cruel regime ruling Iraq. As a result of the shelling, one housing unit was damaged.

Ground Forces Commander Addresses Khuzestan Seminar

GF081636 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 8 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed the "From Khorasan to Karbala" seminar being held in Ahvaz. He announced that the forces of the Islamic Republic are ready at the battlefronts and outlined the latest conditions and developments at the fronts following the massive departures of Rahian-e Karbala' volunteers for the fronts. He attributed the Army's high morale and massive power and the developments in the Army of Islam to the great efforts of the heroic ummah of the country manifested in these caravans of volunteers.

He said: Following the historic move to form the caravans of Karbala' and the continued and highly effective presence of our dear people at the fronts, combatant forces have been given new strength and inspiration. These forces see themselves as more prepared than ever at all fronts for continuing the battle until final victory.

He went on to outline the military and political developments stemming from the valuable move of the people manifested in Rahian-e Karbala' caravans and its effects on the diminishing Ba'thist regime of Iraq, noting the political and military defeats of this regime over the past few months. He went on to describe the further glories of the Islamic Republic and Saddam's fear and that of his masters around the world.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI Details Mojahedin Operations

WA091410 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Nov-5 Dec 85 pp 42-43

[Text] "Death to Khomeyni. Long live Rajavi." This time this slogan is not raised by the Mojahedin-e Khalq in Paris but rather from the heart of Iran, in the midst of the sounds of mortars and machineguns, in the largest-scale military maneuvers undertaken by the Iranian revolutionaries inside their country.

For six months the Iranian resistance has been moving against Khomeyni in military operations undertaken by militias equipped with heavy weapons. While the Mojahedin were strengthening their cells with resistance units inside Iranian cities, more than 2,000 male and female Mojahedin were undertaking military maneuvers in their camps in Kordestan, preparing a new phase of organized war against the Khomeyni regime.

In the shadow of a large picture of the two leaders of the Mojahedin, Maryam and Mas'ud Rajavi, maneuvers took place in a combat environment in which highly motivated units participated using machineguns, field artillery, 81-mm and 120-mm mortars and 106-mm guns. For 10 hours, four divisions of male and female Mojahedin fighters, trained in guerrilla warfare, crossed the mountains of Kordestan, commemorating the 6-month anniversary of the launching of military operations and affirming their determination to liberate Iran from the despotism of the Khomeyni regime which has so far executed 50,000 people and thrown 140,000 in prison.

It appears that the Mojahedin's new strategy focuses on launching organized military operations against the bases of Khomeyni's forces in Kordestan in an operation to supplement the role of the resistance units operating in the interior. Thus, the Mojahedin have set up several military bases in Iranian Kordestan where training operations take place. In recent months their leaders have proceeded to increase the number of their bases after the number of volunteers tripled. The power of the Mojahedin has clearly emerged in the defeats which the Revolutionary Guards of Khomeyni are suffering in Kordestan, especially due to the people's support for and their participation in these operations.

There is no doubt that the shift by the Mojahedin to organize military activity represents a serious challenge to the Iranian

regime which is having difficulties in containing internal problems and in justifying its failures in the war with Iran.

AL-WATAN AL-ARABI has obtained photographs of the Mojahedin's camps from the Iranian interior -- further proof that the regime that says the Mojahedin are finished is not telling the truth.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Qandahar Post

*GF090651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT
9 Jan 86*

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked a post of the joint Soviet and Karmal forces in the Kabul bazaar area in Qandahar Province and succeeded in destroying the post and in killing 10 of the persons stationed there. Based on a report, the Muslim revolutionaries seized 10 weapons as booty during these recent operations. The report states: Five of the Karmal regime's soldiers surrendered to the Muslim revolutionaries during these operations in Qandahar Province.